1: Petrullo E-3 (1933-34) 1939 SS19 Yaruro SS19

136 Bats are plentiful, but they tend to be most abundant in the forests and hills close to the Orinoco. Armies of them fly nightly out of the caves of Guiana to feed on the fruit of the forests in the plains. One evening while crossing back from Guiana to the llanos we saw a stream of bats flying across the river. They seemed to come from a cave about 2 miles away. Though we watched them flying overhead for about half an hour, there did not seem to be any end to them.

174 Formerly the llanos were peopled by a number of tribes who have since disappeared, leaving behind them practically no knowledge of their societies. Only the Yaruros and the Guahibos inhabiting the Meta region have survived to this day. The Tamanachi, the Guamos, the Otomacos, which are best but meagerly known, have died or been killed off in recent years. I saw the last Otomaco survivors, an old woman and a boy of five, who had been saved from a reputed massacre. The Achaguas seem to have disappeared in recent years also.

177 What has happened to these people can be easily understood when it is considered that during the past 25 years the worldwide unrest has driven adventurers to many corners of the earth, and these people have been exposed to the marauding "revolutionary" bands and to the equally destructive cupidity of the crocodile hunter and the rancher.

161 There are 150 Yaruros left in the region of the Capanaparo and
101 on an island at the mouth of that river called the Linda Bara. It is claimed that on the Sinaruco there are other bands but no contact was made with them. Formerly the Yaruros occupied a large territory and perhaps roamed the plains, as well as the rivers, but since the land has been taken up by the ranchers they have been forced to the river banks.

136 The animals of greatest interest to the Yaruros are: jaguar, puma, wild pigs, capibara (the chiguire), armadillo, snakes, jivaro stork, vultures, manatee, tonino, crocodiles, iguana.

137 Plant life has great importance as a source of food, usable wood,
222 medicines, and narcotics. The moriche and macanilla palms supply the Yaruros with fibers and bow wood. The chigua supplies him with flour; the changuango and barbaco with edible roots.

101 The Yaruros call themselves "Pumeh." In the literature they are referred to as "Saururi" (Gumilla), "Zavuri" (Gilii), and more recently as Jaruros, Sayuros, etc. According to my informants Yaruro or Jaruro, is a Guahibo word by which they are known to that people. The Guahibos are known to the Yaruros as "Tciricoa," "people of the forest." The word Pumeh has no exact translatable meaning. The closest equivalent is the Spanish "gente." When a Yaruro uses it he implies "the people," "the chosen people." Only the Yaruros are Pumeh, but the term occasionally includes other tribes. All non-

/117 cont./

3. The Population.

a) Demography (see Tables III, IV, and V).

162 On the Capanaparo and the Riecito we have taken a census of 519 Yaruro (29 communities out of 30). Two-thirds (65.1%) of this population are adults (we do not have a breakdown by age) and the remainder (34.9%) prepuberal children. Among the adults the sexes are divided into two almost equal figures: 173 (51.2%) are men and 165 (48.8%) women. We have the /118/ /Table III appears here/ /119/ /Table IV and Table V appear here/ /120/ breakdown by sexes for children only in five communities; the totals for each of them gives us, there also, twofigures which are practically equal: 23 male children to 21 female.

163 165 Our statistics on births and mortality bear on only three communities with a total of 38 inhabitants in 1947; they are thus rather imprecise. During the period 1947 to 1950, i.e., during three years, we registered 6 births and 9 deaths (6 adults--2 men and 4 women--and 3 young children), that is, two births for three deaths (150% mortality) or, for the total population of the three villages, the respective percentages of 15.8% births and 23.7% deaths. The young children who died comprise one-third of the total of deaths (33.3%) and one half of the total births, which gives, for these 38 Yaruro, a 50% infant mortality.

161 On the basis of these statistics the Yaruro are on the way to extinction. This appears to be confirmed by the Indians themselves who state that they were formerly more numerous and that their number is going down each year. "We die with the first sickness," our old informant, Pedro Ramon Camacho (1)

[115] [756]

1. Head and shaman of community 6.

told us, "and that's why there are so few of us. We are disappearing."

[text continues on p. 16]

5:Le Besnerais--15 E-5 (1947-1950) 1954 SS19 Yaruro SS19 Venezuela 552

/119 cont./

TABLE V

DENSITY

TERRITORY			YARURO		VENEZUELAN PEASANTS				
					Farms				
Sections	Nos. of the Communities	Kms.	Population	Density per 10 kms.	South bank	North bank	Total	Population 8 per Farm	Density per 10 kms.
Orinoco to Madre Vieja Basiliero	1 to 10	220	220	10.0	29	8	37	296	13.5
Madre Vieja Basiliero to Riecito	11 to 15	40	83	20.5	0	8	8	64	16.0
Riecito to Caribe	16 to 23	55	134	24.5	0	0	0	0	0
Riecito	24 to 30	89	82	9.0	0	0	0	0	0
Whole Territory	Totals and averages	404	519	13.0	29	16	45	360	14.0 (a)

(a) On 260 kms.

/120 cont./

Y 161 These 519 Yaruro live along 400 kilometers of river, which gives an average density of 13 inhabitants for 10 kilometers of river. This average conceals considerable variance from one place to another in this part of their territory. On the first 220 kilometers of the Capanaparo starting from the mouth, that is, up to the last Venezuelan farm on the south bank (Madre Vieja Basiliero), the density is 10 inhabitants to ten kilometers. From kilometer 220 up to the mouth of the Riecito (near which the last Venezuelan farm on the Capanaparo is located) the density doubles and goes to 20.5 per ten kilometers and to 24.5 between this latter point and the mouth of the Rio Caribe. On the Riecito the density drops back to 9 inhabitants per ten kilometers of river.

V 161 The density of the Venezuelans on the two banks, between the mouth of the Capanaparo and the Riecito, allowing an average of eight inhabitants for each farm, is 13.5 inhabitants per ten kilometers of river up to the Madre Vieja Basiliero and 16 from the Madre Vieja Basiliero up to the Riecito.

We shall consider the interpretations that these figures have been given in another article.

Y 161 [114] For the rest of the Yaruro population dispersed to the north and south of this region, whom we have not visited, we can only rely on some estimates. With reference to the Cunaviche, who appear to have ten communities, Pastor Juan Van Kompen(2)

2. Evangelical missionary established at San Fernando de Apure, Apure State, Venezuela.

has quoted us a figure of 300, which is without doubt higher than the reality. The Indians on their part have given us a figure of 64 for five communities located between the Capanaparo and the Cinaruco, and for two others, one located between the Capanaparo and the Riecito and the other /121/ on the Cinaruco, respectively 17 and 11. These last estimates are certainly more accurate.